



**LANGLEY  
POLICY  
DIRECTIVE**

**Directive: LAPD 1300.4  
Effective Date: April 9, 1999  
Expiration Date: April 9, 2004**

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**Responsible Office: Office of Director**

**SUBJECT: Langley Distinguished Research Associate (DRA)  
Program**

## **1. SUMMARY**

a. This directive sets forth this Center's policy for the Langley Distinguished Research Associate (DRA) Program. Normally, DRA appointments will be made for a 1-year period. The Senior Scientist may authorize extensions of such appointments after concurrence of the appropriate Program Director.

b. The program is:

(1) Limited to former Center employees who are widely recognized in their field and have made significant contributions to scientific or technical programs.

(2) Intended to give a uniquely qualified researcher the opportunity to pursue a technical activity of potential interest to the aerospace community. This activity should normally be one which is within this Center's roles and missions but not currently funded.

## **2. POLICY**

a. NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC) will accept unconditional, gratuitous donations of Distinguished Research Associates' services that are fully consistent with applicable laws and regulations, avoid the appearance of "de facto" employment, and are otherwise determined to be in the best interest of the Center. NASA shall not solicit or rely on the use of "gratuitous" research services to accomplish the Center's mission.

b. Services that require the performance of "inherently governmental" functions, and that would normally be assigned to civil servants to accomplish the Center's mission, or services that properly reside with a NASA LaRC contractor, will not be accepted as "gratuitous."

## **3. DEFINITION**

Distinguished Research Associate - A former Langley federal employee, who is a member of the scientific or academic community, and who has distinguished him/herself as nationally and/or internationally recognized as a result of distinguished contributions to the scientific or technical community. This person will conduct his/her independent research effort based upon a formal agreement with LaRC. This formal agreement is entered into prior to performing any research services, and is entered into pursuant

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to the authority of the Space Act (42 U.S.C. 2473.203(c)). The research services may not consist of a violation of the "Anti-Deficiency Act" (31 U.S.C. 1342). The Distinguished Research Associate, by entering into this formal Space Act Agreement, offers his/her expertise "gratuitously" without expectation of compensation, either when the research is performed or at a later point.

#### **4. RECISION**

LAPD 1300.4, dated October 27, 1992.

Jeremiah F. Creedon  
Director